



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

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New Medical Director at Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute in Danville

Danville—David M. Lyon, Director of Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute (SVMHI) in Danville, announced today that he has hired B. R. (Bob) Ashby, M.D., as the new medical director of the Institute. A welcome reception for Dr. Ashby will be held at SVMHI on Monday, July 19, from 9:30-10:30 am.

Dr. Ashby will manage an innovative partnership between SVMHI and Danville Regional Medical Center intended to provide state-of-the art care for persons with serious mental illnesses who are treated by both the public and private sectors in the area. This partnership will work in cooperation with the Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board. SVMHI is a 72 bed public psychiatric facility that provides acute care and active treatment for people with serious mental illness.

Dr. Ashby is a psychiatrist, licensed in Virginia and North Carolina. He received his medical training at the University of Virginia Hospital, Department of Psychiatry, and Medical College of South Carolina. He is currently the medical director of the Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Program at Danville Regional Medical Center. He has served as consultant to the medical staff at SVMHI since 1977. In addition, he served as chairman of the board of directors for the Danville Pittsylvania Community Services Board. Dr. Ashby has directed psychiatrists and other clinical staff at both Danville Regional Medical Center and SVMHI. He is a member of the Danville-Pittsylvania Academy of Medicine, the Medical Society of Virginia, the American Medical Association, the Psychiatric Society of Virginia and the American Psychiatric Association.

He holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Averett College (2001), and was named Danville Citizen of the Year in 2001. He is active in the Danville community, serving on numerous boards and community activities. At present, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Danville Regional Health System, a member of the Board of Danville Regional Medical Center, and a member of the Board of the Future of Piedmont Foundation.

Dr. Ashby and his wife Mary Frances live in Danville. They have 4 children.

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